

Name:	33. SOUTH AFRICA: ECOSYSTEM-BASED PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE		
Region	Africa	Country	South Africa
Ecosystem	All		
Nature of approach	Improvement in capacity, design and policy measures; Implementation of EBA measures		
Description of approach	<p>Objective/Expected outcomes</p> <p>The climate change impact scenarios for South Africa are likely to include temperature increases and disrupted regional rainfall patterns resulting in longer dry periods interspersed with more intense rainfall events. This is expected to contribute to negative impacts for the provision and regulation of a reliable supply of freshwater, along with increased likelihood of natural disasters (particularly floods, fires and coastal storms).</p> <p>In order to try and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystem and people to the effects of climate change, the Government established a process to incorporate biodiversity information into land-use planning and decision-making, to conserve biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Activities were focused on two main interventions - incorporating biodiversity information into spatial and development planning, and creating a national strategy for expanding protected areas, to ensure the continued delivery of vital ecosystem services, including water flow regulation, that are essential to local populations.</p> <p>Results achieved</p> <p>As a result, information on the areas important for ecosystem-based adaptation is being used to inform spatial planning and land-use decision-making. The national government has committed to a protected areas expansion strategy that has both climate change resilience and biodiversity conservation built into it (e.g. through the explicit identification of areas important for climate change adaptation). However, implementation still has a long way to go, with progress faster in some parts of the country than others. Several conflicts have arisen, such as tensions between expanding the footprint of agriculture to promote food security in the face of climate change, and the need to maintain the increasingly threatened ecosystems which support biodiversity and ecosystem services which underpin agricultural security. In addition to the direct outcomes, the recognition that healthy ecosystems are a key requirement for human adaptation to climate change and can potentially be both more effective and lower cost than engineered solutions is emerging as a powerful force for aligning biodiversity with developmental and social agendas.</p> <p>Lessons learned (particularly highlighting the benefits and challenges related with ecosystem-based approach)</p> <p>Improved planning and decision making processes are an important step in integrating ecosystems into adaptation planning, although it does not guarantee that they will be effectively used to guide appropriate development or wise management of ecosystems. Activities such as capacity building are one tool that can support better implementation of such approaches.</p>		
Type of organisation	Government	Name of organisation:	Government of South Africa
Further information and contact details	WRI 2011: World Resources Report Case Study. World Resources Report, Washington DC		